The School of English Church Music

FESTIVAL OF ENGLISH CHURCH MUSIC, 1933

DEAR CORRESPONDENT,

I have the important information to give you that the Crystal Palace Festival will take place on Friday, 21st July, 1933, under the distinguished patronage of Their Majesties The King and Queen, and further that, circumstances permitting, The King and Queen hope to be present at the Festival.

This wonderful recognition of the work of the School and of the importance of the Festival is a development of the highest interest to all concerned. To many of those who are privileged to take part in the Festival it will be an event of a life-time.

Certain changes in the arrangements must be made, and even if these changes should put some of the choirs to a certain amount of inconvenience, it is to be hoped that they will be loyally accepted in view of the occasion which gives rise to them.

The Festival Service will be held in the AFTERNOON instead of the EVENING, and the General Rehearsal in the MORNING instead of the AFTERNOON. It will be necessary that choirs coming from a distance should reach London by about 10 o'clock: on the other hand the Festival will be over by 5.30 so that many of them will be able to return the same night.

The revised time-table will be as follows:—

Choirs assemble at the Crystal Palace between 10 and 11. At 11.0 punctually the Processions will be marshalled, the boys and men being ready robed in their cassocks. *No one can be admitted after* 11.0 *o'clock.*

The General Rehearsal will last to approximately 1 o'clock, and after returning to their robing-places choirs will disperse for lunch. Catering arrangements will be announced later.

Choirs must be ready robed and in their places by 3 o'clock, when the Processions will be marshalled, and the Service will begin promptly at 3.30 p.m.

As it is clearly essential that the singing should reach the highest possible level and that all the complicated arrangements for seating,

etc., should be carried out with the utmost efficiency, a definite rule must be made that none can be allowed to sing unless they can comply with the above requirements. Strict punctuality is absolutely necessary. No chorister will admit that anything but the best is good enough for such an important occasion, and I have no doubt that these conditions will be fulfilled even if they involve real difficulty and sacrifice.

The Supplementary Service Book is nearly ready. This will be needed by *all* singers taking part in the Festival, *in addition to* Choir Book No. 2. Since going to press, however, it has been thought well to make a slight change in the musical programme, and the Anthem, " Praise the Lord," *Goss* (which is in Choir Book No. 2) will *not* be sung.

The full musical programme will be as follows:—

*	Six Processional Hymns	F.
*	The National Anthem	F.
*	Responses and Psalms	CB.
*	Hymn, " As now the sun's declining rays "	F.
	Magnificat in E, *S. S. Wesley*	F.
	Nunc Dimittis in A, *C. V. Stanford*	F.
	Anthem, " I was glad," *C. H. Parry*	F.
	Anthem, " How goodly are thy tents," *Ouseley* ...	CB.
*	Hymn, " Hail gladdening light "	F.
*	Hymn, " There is a book "	CB.
	Anthem, " Arise in us," *Martin Shaw*	CB.
	Anthem, " Rejoice in the Lord," *Redford*	CB.
	Anthem, " Let all the world," *Sir Arthur Somervell* ...	F.
*	Hymn, " O God our help "	F.
*	Choral Song, " Thou gracious God," *Leslie Heward* ...	F.
(*)	Hallelujah Chorus, *Handel*	F.

(The letters F indicate the Supplementary Festival Book, and CB the Choir Book No. 2).

The music marked * is to be sung by *all* choirs. The remainder *need* not be sung by choirs in Division B, though they are invited to learn such of it as is within their powers; and it is specially hoped that all will be able to join in the Hallelujah Chorus.

Those who have Choir Book No. 2 as well as the Supplementary Festival Book will have the whole of the music required, but some of the smaller choirs, entering in Division B, may prefer to purchase separately such of the music as they require from Choir Book No. 2.

A leaflet containing Responses, Psalms and Hymn 8 is obtainable from the Festival Secretary, price 2d. per copy or 1/9 per dozen, and this must be obtained by *all* who have not copies of Choir Book No. 2.

The three anthems selected from Choir Book No. 2 may be obtained from the publishers direct:—

"How goodly are thy tents," *Ouseley* (Novello), 3d.
"Arise in us," *Martin Shaw* (Novello), 4d.
"Rejoice in the Lord," *Redford* (Oxford University Press), 4d.

Every choir, then, must have the Supplementary Festival Book and at least the Leaflet of Responses, etc., but choirs in Division B need not necessarily have the three anthems above mentioned, or Choir Book No. 2.

The accompanying form F/5 should be filled in and returned to the Festival Secretary as soon as possible. The numbers originally sent may possibly have to be modified in view of the changed arrangements, and even now it is recognised that they can only be provisional: but as accurate an estimate as possible is asked for. Final numbers will be required by the beginning of May.

One Supplementary Festival Book will be needed for each singer (but extra copies may be ordered). A deposit of 1/- per copy must accompany each order, but it is hoped that it will be possible to refund this amount in respect of each singer who actually takes part in the Festival.

Supplementary Festival Books and "Leaflets" are *only* obtainable from the Festival Secretary. Cheques for these should be made payable to Mr. E. H. Barnes, and orders can only be dealt with when the money is sent.

Copies of Choir Book No. 2 (which will be needed by all choirs in Division A) and Badges (which be needed by everyone) can *only* be obtained from the Secretary of the S.E.C.M.

It will save much troubling in book-keeping, etc., if correspondents will be careful to observe these directions carefully.

It should be pointed out that an early application is desirable to avoid disappointment, and that no choir is eligible to take part in the Festival unless it is affiliated to the S.E.C.M. and its subscription has been paid up to date.

In conclusion, may I urge every member of every choir to do his utmost to make the Festival worthy of the unique honour of a Royal visit? And may I ask every correspondent to do all he can to lighten the heavy task of organization by following out the directions accurately and promptly.

SYDNEY H. NICHOLSON,
Conductor.

N.B.—All Notices should be kept for reference.